

NORMAN ANIMAL WELFARE CENTER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

June 22, 2015

The Norman Animal Welfare Center Oversight Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Multi-Purpose room on the 22nd day of June, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. The notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray Street on the 18th of June, 2015. The meeting was also posted on the City of Norman website.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Co-Chairperson Mark Howery called the meeting to order at approximately 5:41 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Co-Chairperson Mark Howery
Jayne Crumpley
Ginger Noble, D.V.M.
Jennifer Kidney PhD .
Councilman Stephen Tyler Holman
Joe Carter D.V.M
Rebecca Bean

ABSENT: Michelle Carey

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rick Knighton, Assistant City Attorney
John Bowman, Animal Welfare Supervisor
Kevin Foster, Norman Police Department Major
Darci Poe, Norman Animal Welfare
Keith Humphrey, Chief of Police

III. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Dr. Joe Carter and seconded by Dr. Ginger Noble. The motion was carried. Jayne Crumpley said she had questions regarding status of a couple of things. Chairperson Mark Howery said save those for miscellaneous comments.

IV. MONTHLY STATISTICS

John Bowman provided reports with monthly statistics and explained the Chameleon reports. John also clarified the wildlife report and the categories. Dr. Joe Carter asked what is “behavioral severe”? John answers those are animals that are feral or wild. Rebecca Bean asked how we know if animals are feral. John answered that with interaction with staff is how they are deemed feral.

John Bowman said it can take six to nine months to treat heartworm. Rebecca Bean asked six to nine months? She said she thought there is an eight week treatment. She also said in the past they have offered to raise money for heartworm treatment.

Rebecca Bean asked if Friends of Animals of Norman were a rescue group if they could pull animals. John Bowman said that we have to have the proper paperwork from them as a rescue before they can pull animals.

Chairperson Mark Howery asked if the animals with behavior severe are assessed by multiple people. John Bowman said yes and explained behavior severe to manageable.

John Bowman stated that Norman Animal Welfare has an 82% live release rate; when he started, it was less than 50%. John said that last week we had 30 free adoptions. Major Foster asked if any of them came back. John answered that one dog did return. Jayne Crumpley asked if there is an adoption form people fill out. John said yes, every adoption has an adoption form that is completed.

Chairperson Mark Howery asked to clarify the foster categories. John went over the foster to adopt categories. Chairperson Mark Howery said that an animal being underweight is a great reason to foster and appreciated the details of the report.

John Bowman said 20 animals went to Wildcare.

Rebecca Bean asked what the return to owner procedure is. John Bowman explained that most people look at the picture online and we encourage them to come into the shelter to look at the animal to be sure it is theirs. As far as a lost report, a person can call in a lost pet in which a lost report is taken and stays in our system for 14 days. When a picture is uploaded, the picture goes out to 23 other sites that can be searched. The microchip companies send out for lost animals as well that we look for in Chameleon. John also explained that when a dog is adopted, Pet Harbor puts a banner on the animal saying it has been adopted.

Rebecca Bean asked if a rescue calls in to see if their previously adopted pets were in the shelter, could staff take a picture of it. John Bowman answered that it would depend on staffing and explained that pets are property in the state of Oklahoma so the animal

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would go to the owner instead of the rescue. Rebecca Bean asked how long the stray hold is if there is a known owner. John Bowman said the stay hold is seven days if there is an identifiable owner.

Chairperson Mark Howery asked if there were any other questions.

V. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Major Foster said there were minor problems that have been corrected to the building in order to get the animals moved over which are now completed. The old building is now gone. Major Foster said that they have looked at the pad and it has to have a moisture test and they are waiting for the rain to pass. He said they are hoping to have Phase II completed in November. Rebecca Bean asked what is included in Phase II. John Bowman answered that dog hold area, puppy hold area, quarantines, behavioral testing area; animal welfare officer's area, euthanasia room, cat holding area and medical/surgery area are included in Phase II. Rebecca Bean asked about the washer/dryer. John Bowman said that will be in Phase II. Rebecca Bean asked how the laundry gets washed. John answered that the laundry goes home with someone to be washed. Rebecca Bean said that would something volunteers could do. Chairperson Mark Howery said that is a great idea.

Rebecca Bean asked about the beds the Eagle Scouts had made. John said that some of the beds are being used where they can but some are too big for the kennels. Rebecca Bean asked if we could get bigger kennels. John said no. Rebecca Bean asked if all the dogs have beds. John answered that no, not all of them, because some dogs do not use them; all that use them have them.

Chairperson Mark Howery asked if the upper kennels were leaking into the lower kennels. Major Foster explained how and why they were leaking. John Bowman stated that the issue was addressed before the animals were moved in. John Bowman said that Spayway altered 40 plus animals when they were moved over.

Chairperson Mark Howery asked if the old building was torn down. John Bowman said yes and now they have to survey the foundation. Chairperson Mark Howery said that was a lot of progress in four weeks. John Bowman went over the breakdown of the numbers of kennels and cat condos in the new building. Chairperson Mark Howery asked if it was quieter in the new building. John answered that the dogs are not face to face and in smaller numbers in the rooms which makes it quieter and the new kennels have better ventilation. Rebecca Bean asked if the shelter accepted credit cards. John Bowman answered that the shelter does take credit cards. Rebecca Bean asked if the \$60,000.00 could be used for quarantine. John Bowman said that is something that would have to be asked of Deputy Chief Masiano. Chairperson Mark Howery asked when we started taking credit cards. John said when we moved into the new building we started accepting credit cards.

Dr. Carter asked if Chameleon sent out city pet license notifications. John Bowman said that Chameleon generates a report every night that shows our intake and outtake. Chameleon also collects email for the postmaster to send out reminders for city pet licenses. Dr. Carter suggested that online paying with credit card may be better. John Bowman said that is still being worked out.

VI. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

John Bowman said the volunteer program has been completed and we currently have 38 applicants, 16 active volunteers and 44 hours. John Bowman went on to explain the steps to become a volunteer, the volunteer jobs and that we are working on vests for the volunteers. John said we are working on a photography workshop for the surrounding areas.

Dr. Carter asked if the request for additional money for more staff was approved. John Bowman answered that there was a mid-year adjustment approval for an administration technician that started today. Chief Keith Humphrey said the administration technician was approved and there is a request for a veterinarian technician. Chief Humphrey said Animal Welfare does have a contract with Rose Rock Veterinarian for now since we do not have the facilities right now for a part time veterinarian. Dr. Carter asked if that was a police department request that would go to council. Major Foster said yes. Chairperson Mark Howery said we need to contact our city council to encourage them to support the veterinarian tech position. Councilman Stephen Holman said two people came to support on the budget vote and would like more people to come. Chairperson Mark Howery asked when that would be. Councilman Stephen Holman answered it would be end of May or early June and suggested someone can attend the next meeting. Dr. Carter asked if it would be possible for there to be notification sent out to our committee. Chairperson Mark Howery said there will be no meeting in May.

Rebecca Bean asked about the 2016 budget and if the veterinarian position would be in it. Chief Humphrey explained the budget for the veterinarian. Rebecca Bean asked if this was the last meeting before council. Councilman Stephen Holman said amendments can be made the day of the meeting; the vote is June 7th. Chairperson Mark Howery said that Rose Rock and Spayway contracts can be extended out.

Chairperson Mark Howery also went over our volunteer numbers. Rebecca Bean asked how often Orientation is. John Bowman answered that orientation is twice a week. Dr. Ginger Noble asked how long the orientation was. John Bowman answered it is about an hour. Chairperson Mark Howery asked if there was an orientation on Saturdays. John Bowman said there is a Saturday Orientation once a month. Rebecca Bean asked if there was a paper application. John Bowman said we have a tri fold; all applications are online and go through Jacob Hunt. Chairperson Mark Howery asked if there were any questions. Chairperson Mark Howery asked if the 44 hours did not include community service. John Bowman said that was correct. Jennifer Kidney said that was only for six weeks of data since the program just started. Major Foster said volunteers can sign up on volgestics. Rebecca Bean asked if they can sign up for jobs right after. John Bowman answered that orientation and classes for the different jobs would be at different times.

VII. EUTHANASIA PROCEDURES

John Bowman said the Oklahoma Vet Board regulates the state statutes. Each employee at the shelter that euthanizes is trained and certified as a certified euthanasia technician that is designated by state statutes which is what we adhere to. John Bowman said we euthanize animals for space, feral, diseased or if not treatable. John Bowman said there is not a set rule and it could be a combination of things that would decide for an animal to

be euthanized. John Bowman said a list gets made for the animals that should be euthanized but also explained that list can change or animals can be taken off due to various reasons. Chairperson Mark Howery said John has done a good job explaining how complicated this is. John Bowman said it is very emotional. Chairperson Mark Howery said years ago euthanasia was driven by the length of stay and now there are more variables that go into it. John Bowman said it also depends on the temperament and health of the animals. Rebecca Bean said it is no question that it is hard to make a list and that is why it is very important for the support of the rescues, staff, budget and a true foster program to make the job easier if we all work together. Chairperson Mark Howery asked if there were any questions. Chairperson Mark Howery said he was very glad that more people and staff were involved. John Bowman said that the staff notes any behavioral issues.

Rebecca Bean said that Oklahoma City animal welfare has an ABCD rating or green to red rating on which animals may be close to being euthanized. Jennifer Kidney said it is not a good idea because it is predestining them when their status might change. Chairperson Mark Howery said he likes the ideas because it can prepare volunteers.

Dr. Carter explained heartworm testing in dogs and why it is complicated and could be very expensive as well as take a long time to treat. Rebecca Bean asked if it is contagious during treatment. Dr. Carter answered yes it is. Jayne Crumpley said she did not know how involved it was and people don't realize how expensive it is. Jayne Crumpley suggested that this information would be good for a public service message.

VIII. WILDCARE

Major Foster said everyone should have the agreement with Wildcare in their packet. Major Foster said that we notify Wildcare by two to three o'clock and they pick up wildlife daily. Chairperson Mark Howery asked if Chameleon knows what percentage of how many Wildcare takes versus off the road. John Bowman answered that it does include animals from Wildcare. Chairperson Mark Howery went over the numbers and categories and also mentioned that Wildcare has a part time vet.

Rebecca Bean said for big stuff like this as a committee member now she would love to know when stuff like this is happening rather than read it in the paper. Would there be a way to find out that we are getting a vet contract or that we are getting a Wildcare agreement, just to let committee know before the next meeting to find out. Major Foster said we can let you know when it is completed. Councilmen Stephen Holman said we can put it on the Thursday before the meeting and have until Tuesday to go over it. Major Foster said as far as the agenda stuff can get taken off on Monday.

Chairperson Mark Howery asked if there were any other questions. Rebecca Bean said since we have this wonderful agreement in place it seems to her that there is no need to use the gas chamber. John Bowman said the gas chamber is still needed in case of a rabid skunk in which case it would be euthanized in accordance with state statutes and Oklahoma Vet board. Rebecca Bean asked if the pole method could be used. John Bowman answered that the best way is the way being used with least interaction approved by the state of Oklahoma.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Jayne Crumpley said she was curious on how the spay/neutering and part time contract with Dr. Fritzler was working out. John Bowman said he could not complain about either one, that both are working out.

Chairperson Mark Howery explained the rules of public comments and the timed limit of four minutes per person.

Joy Hampton from the Norman Transcript asked for clarification on kennel statistics outcomes, specifically the “in foster” to be adopted. John Bowman explained they left the shelter in foster, then came back to get surgery, and then were adopted. Joy asked if heartworm testing is always accurate. Dr. Carter answered that false positives are possible, the worm can take six months to mature, and it is not an exact science. Dr. Carter said a second opinion is always good.

Bill Hickmon said he would like to see a year to date added to the reports as well as adding in a comparison to prior year and prior month to have a comparative analysis. He would also like to see beginning inventory numbers and ending numbers. He said that would be helpful to public and shelter. He asked us to think about the procedure of heartworm testing only when an animal has been put on hold to be adopted out, why don't we test sooner? Bill asked if there are written guidelines or standard operating procedures for the volunteers. Bill asked what are we doing to get volunteers and getting them trained. Bill said it appears you have 10 active volunteers as you have defined them; however, he said it does not appear that the shelter has any volunteers that have been through orientation and trained in specific jobs. He asked what we are doing to get volunteers back to shelter. He appreciates the Animal Welfare staff in getting all of those animals adopted. Bill said it is very important that everyone understand that when email went out to the volunteers for the request that many people in the community retweeted and reposted and sent out other emails to help to make that happen, so you can see through the efforts and accomplishment of the shelter when it works with the volunteers in the community the animals that can be saved, we need to figure out a plan to re bridge that to get volunteers back there.

Charlotte Beatty said it would be nice to have a print out of the volunteer statistics. She said her husband is a videographer and could create video training to use for training in the future. She said she understands how the color code could distance the staff from animals but the public would view it differently.

Matthew Clinton said thank you for the 30 free adoptions to create space. He said Norman Animal Welfare Now took out a Facebook ad that reached 60,000 people. He said it is important to communicate with them and get them involved. He suggested posting upcoming classes so that people know when they are.

Adam Beatty said he could video for Animal Welfare. He asked if the \$62,000.00 of the Personal Sales Tax could be channeled more effectively.

Emily Nicholls said social media is important to share information and there is room to grow that. She said volunteers could craft them even if Animal Welfare posted them. She said the 30 free adoptions were great. She said she went to the shelter and through the volunteer training. She said we could post dogs' being adopted, that is always good PR. She asked if a pre grand opening might be possible. Emily said Friends of Animals of Norman has a 501C3 but is not a rescue at this time. She said she evaluated a dog that was heartworm positive and Friends of Animals of Norman can raise funds for that dog. Emily said their email is fanvolunteers@gmail.com and this is the easiest way to get to them.

Rebecca Bean asked how we can raise money.

John Bowman said Animal Welfare has never been not willing to work with Friends of Animals of Norman and is glad to work with anyone.

Rick Knighton suggested that Friends of the Animals of Norman (FAN) check into the Norman Parks Foundation whose procedures enable them to give money to parks in the form of grants rather than into general funds.

Emily Nicholls said if anyone is interested in Friends of Animals of Norman to email her at the same email address.

Rebecca Bean asked if the funds would go to the vet for heartworm treatment.

Emily Nicholls said yes, they go to the person or paid to the vet directly.

Dr. Carter said he was doing some research and found that heartworm tests are 98% accurate.

Rebecca Bean asked if there was a way to streamline the orientation with a video.

John Bowman said he would like to get Adam Beatty's phone number.

Rebecca Bean said to have more Facebook posts and more on training classes in the future is a way to reach out to people.

Chairperson Mark Howery asked if there were any other comments or questions.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Joe Carter at 8:04 p.m. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Kidney, the motion was carried.

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ATTEST:

Mark Howery Co-Chairperson